

## GREATEST AIR DISASTER IN CHINA'S AVIATION HISTORY ON XMAS NIGHT

### SIXTY-TWO KILLED IN SHANGHAI TRAGEDY

#### THREE PLANES CRASH IN BAD WEATHER

Shanghai, Dec. 26. Christmas night in Shanghai was marred by the greatest air disaster in Chinese aviation history when three air liners—two belonging to the Sino-American concern China National Aviation Corporation and the other to the State-owned Central Air Transport Corporation—crashed, with a death toll of at least 62 passengers and air crews, in attempting to land in the fog enshrouded airfield. Among the 12 injured, a few are now expected to survive.

All three planes were coming from Chungking and carrying a reported total of 68 passengers and nine crewmen. The two CNAC planes, a C-47 and a C-46, numbered 140 and 115 respectively, crashed outside Lungwa airfield in the southern suburb of Shanghai after their gasoline supply had run out.

The CATC plane, number 48, with still one hour's fuel reserve, plunged into a farmhouse north of Kiangwan airfield, in a north-east suburb, after shooting under a 100-foot weather ceiling in a rooftop approach.

The pilots of both CNAC planes were American, Captain J. M. Greenwood, of 140 and Captain R. B. Preus of 115, while a Chinese, Tommy Wing, was in charge of the CATC machine.

The fate of the Americans is still uncertain, although unconfirmed reports say that Captain Greenwood was killed and Preus seriously injured. Tommy Wing, who crashed with all eleven occupants of his plane, including nine passengers.

The two CNAC planes carried a total of 60 passengers, with six crewmen. Altogether 13 planes converged on Shanghai last night, carrying more than a hundred passengers eager to spend Christmas here.

Dense fog, however, enveloped the entire area as far back as Nanjing. Eight planes managed to land safely. The first plane to crash was the CATC C-47. It skipped Nanjing, because of bad weather conditions, and tried to land at Kiangwan. In zero visibility it overshot the landing strip and crashed into a farmhouse.

The impact crushed the farmhouse, killing the mother and injuring three of her children.

The second mishap took place two hours later when plane 140 crashed at Lungwa airfield, after futile efforts to blind-land by instruments at Kiangwan.

The second CNAC airliner reached Shanghai at 5.30 p.m. local time and circled for about three and a half hours over Kiangwan, seeking to land by instruments.

For reasons unknown, it left Kiangwan field for Lungwa, attempting to land there. Falling to come out of a circle it crashed about a mile south-west of the field.

All Shanghai commercial air departures were cancelled temporarily as a result of the crashes and weather conditions. CNAC, in a statement to-day, explained that their ill-fated planes were from Chungking. When they took off from Wuchang, opposite Hankow, the weather in Shanghai and Nanjing was suitable for landing, but they ran into dense fog near Nanjing.

However, they could not turn back because of the absence of night-landing facilities at Wuchang.—Reuter.

#### COMPLETION OF PLANS FOR CHINA'S AIRLINES

Shanghai, Dec. 25. The Central Air Transport Corporation, one of China's largest aviation concerns, has completed plans to inaugurate two international air lines following the signing of the Sino-American air transport agreement, and the imminent conclusion of similar pacts with France and Britain. One of these lines will link Shanghai with Taiwan, Midway, Guam and San Francisco and the other with Hongkong and Haiphong.—Reuter.

### London Plane Crashes Outside Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro, Dec. 24. Nineteen people were killed when the London-Buenos Aires airliner crashed in a storm into the mountain-side 14 miles from Rio de Janeiro yesterday.

They are believed to include six Britons. There were two survivors—Claudio Mendoza of Lima, Peru, and Henrique Lacrois of Argentina. Among those on board was an Argentine diplomat who has not yet been named. He joined the plane at Lisbon—and Richard and Dorothy Pearce.

Richard Pearce, formerly a squadron-leader in the Royal Air Force, was on his way to take up a civil aviation post in Argentina. His wife, formerly Dorothy Spicer, was the well-known flyer and the first woman to hold the British Air Ministry's A, B, and C and D flying licences, allowing her to pilot any type of plane.

Early to-day rescue parties were hacking their way through dense forests in torrential rain to reach the wreck.

The plane, which was on its first trip, was owned by Fama (the Florida Aero Mercantile Argentine). Its route was London, Paris, Lisbon, Dacca, Natal, Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires.—Reuter.

Crash squads to-night were still hacking at the wreckage—buried in tangled undergrowth.

Among the victims was Dr Arturo Razo, Argentine Minister at Lisbon, and Mrs Dorothy Norma Pearce, 38 year old British pioneer woman air ace.

Henrique Lacrois, one of the only two passengers brought from the wreckage alive, died in hospital to-day and the condition of the only survivor, Claudio Mendoza of Lima, Peru, was stated here to-night to be "extremely critical."

The crash, which took place in a heavy mist, is the worst foreign plane disaster ever recorded in Brazil.

It was revealed to-day that the last signal from the plane was heard yesterday morning when it was approaching Galeao airport, normal port for international traffic. Owing to bad conditions, it is believed that the captain, British-born Derek Norman Jones, tried to make for the military airport of Campos do Afonso. It being too late to cross the mist-shrouded Tijuca range.

Altogether six Britons were killed in the crash, including Mrs Pearce and her husband, Richard Pearce, formerly a Squadron-leader in the RAF. Mrs Pearce was the first woman to receive a technical appointment in civil aviation when she joined the Air Registration Board in London in 1936. She was also the founder of a company giving "joy rides" to thousands of holiday makers and has held office as an engineer in charge of a fleet of aircraft for British Empire air displays.—Reuter.

### United States Two Up In Davis Cup

Melbourne, Dec. 26. The United States won the first singles match in the Challenge Round, of the Davis Cup which began to-day when Ted Schroeder beat Australia's John Bromwich, 3-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-6, 6-3.

The crowd was the biggest ever seen at a Davis Cup tie in Australia. Bromwich went away to a two-love lead in the first set, but Ted Schroeder, as he rushed for the net, and after Schroeder had leveled the scores, he kept him back with accurate baseline play.

Schroeder, however, took an early lead in the second set and forced Bromwich into errors in the third set to take that also.

Bromwich relled too much on drop shots, which proved ineffective in the final set and never recovered from his early reverses in this set.

In the second singles, Jack Kramer (United States) defeated Australia's Dinny Pails, 6-0, 6-2, and 6-7.

Both hit freely and deeply in the first set, playing most interesting tennis. When the set stood at 4-4, Pails was twice aided by Kramer. It was a battle of services and good length hard hitting.

Kramer continued to play almost faultlessly in the second set placing magnificently. Although Pails played well he was not in the hunt.

In the third set, however, Pails played as well as he has ever played in his career. He held Kramer to 7-7, seeing him on points several times, but Kramer carried too many games.

Australia, now down two matches to love, needs almost a miracle if she is to hold the Davis Cup, especially with Kramer playing up to his reputation as the world's best.—Reuter.

Parker's Protest Melbourne, Dec. 24. The United States tennis star Davis Cup player, Frankie Parker, to-day protested that his exclusion from the team was due to the whim of Captain Walter Fale and had nothing to do with his own ability as a player.

Pate immediately countered with a statement that no personalities were involved in selections. With the matches scheduled to start on Thursday Parker apparently was dropped completely from the Cup play. Pate was reported to be standing firm on eliminating Parker from all competition. The decision to drop Parker was made at a conference among six United States players on the squad who agreed that Parker could not rise to playing heights like Ted Schroeder.

Pate, however, continued to deny that doubles selections had been made and said that no decision would be made before Thursday's singles matches. He predicted that the United States would win by a score of three matches to two or even four to one. Pate was optimistic despite the dissension over Parker's accusations.

It was obvious that others on the squad were annoyed by Parker's statement that Pate did not have nerve enough to make the selections and left it to his team.

It appeared to-day that the Kooyong Club stadium which has no accommodation of 14,500 seats will be sold out for the matches, despite the fact that weather reports indicate that the games will played in a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or over.—United Press.

### Frigate From Hongkong Lost Off Hainan

Singapore, Dec. 26. The British Navy frigate, Aro, on the way to Singapore from Hongkong grounded on Bombay Reef, off Hainan Island early on December 23 and is now considered a total loss. The Naval Auxiliary Base, Singapore, is now working on the frigate for some time, but after the decision that the Aro was unsalvageable, she was abandoned along with all members of the crew—five officers and 60 men—had been transferred to the Bonaventure, which is expected to reach Singapore tomorrow.—Reuter.

### 57 KILLED IN BATTLE ON GREEK BORDER

Athens, Dec. 25. Fifty members of an armed band were killed in a battle with Greek gendarmes and troops near Sufli, on the river Maritsa, which forms the border between Greek and Turkish Thrace, according to reports received here to-day by the Greek Ministry of Public Order.

Seven Greek gendarmes and soldiers were killed and three members of the armed forces and three peasants were wounded, according to reports.

The band, 800 strong, it was stated, attacked the village of Dadin, near Sufli, on Friday evening. Thirty gendarmes were sent to the village.

#### W. C. FIELDS DEAD

Pasadena, Dec. 25. W. C. Fields, one of America's most widely-known comedians both on the screen and stage, died at a sanitarium to-day.

Fields, who was 67 years old, had been ill for over a year. The well-known comedian was famous for his own personal apathy for good liquor and for his characterisation of drunks.—Central News.

Gendarmes stationed in the village held them off until army and gendarme reinforcements arrived and repulsed the attackers.

The Ministry's reports said that the attackers were led by two men stated to have arrived recently from Bulkes, in Yugo-Slavia. Several members of the band were said to speak Bulgarian.

The attackers were armed with six German machine-guns, three heavy mortars and hand grenades, besides rifles, many of which were of Yugo-Slavia origin, the reports added.—Reuter.

### Bomb Thrown In Building In Cairo

Cairo, Dec. 24. A bomb was thrown to-night at the building of the Anglo-Egyptian union at Zamalek, a Cairo suburb. Windows were smashed, but there were no casualties.

A car was seen outside the building during the explosion and rushed off immediately afterwards.

The Anglo-Egyptian union was founded to promote Anglo-Egyptian friendship.

It was later learned that the bomb contained a powerful explosive thought to be gellignite.

A police official said: "Had the bomb exploded inside it would have wrecked the whole building." However, a hole was made in a wall and all the windows were smashed.

A police officer said he saw two well dressed young men outside the building acting suspiciously and after the explosion they drove off in a waiting taxi. The police are carrying out investigations.—Reuter.

#### Students Arrested

Cairo, Dec. 25. Five Egyptian students were arrested by the police to-day in connection with three bomb outrages in the city last night.

One of the students, who belong to the Muslim Brotherhood, was stated to have confessed to throwing a bomb at a building housing the Anglo-Egyptian Union Society, founded to promote friendship between British and Egyptian peoples.

The other two bombs thrown last night exploded within ten minutes of each other near two night clubs where Christmas Eve celebrations were in full swing. One of the bombs exploded near the Sudan Agency.

Little damage was caused by the attacks, although a night-watchman and a member of the secret police were injured.

The Cairo police to-day increased security measures to prevent a recurrence of possible incidents.—Reuter.

### American Statement On Dairen Incident

Washington, Dec. 24. A State Department spokesman to-day confirmed the report that Russian military authorities had ordered a U.S. Naval vessel out of Dairen, a Manchurian port, but said the action was within Soviet legal rights.

The spokesman said there was "substantial accuracy" to the dispatch saying that the Russians had given the ship a twenty-minute "get out" ultimatum. The spokesman said the Department had received a preliminary but garbled report on the incident.

Meanwhile, Senator Tom Stewart said the State, War and Navy Departments should "look into" the circumstances surrounding the Dairen incident. He added that the Senate should fully explore it before ratifying peace treaties.

The State Department spokesman pointed out that, under the Sino-Soviet Treaty of August 1945, Dairen eventually should be a free commercial port under the Chinese administration, but the Soviet and Chinese governments had not yet made necessary arrangements. The Department would await a full report before any action would be considered. But he said that the Soviet Union was within its legal rights in ordering the vessel to leave and in refusing to allow two American newspaper correspondents and an American businessman to go ashore.

The spokesman said: "The Soviet authorities notified the United States with established routine and the vessel was granted usual permission to stay in port for 48 hours."

Courier Arris H. Hall was allowed to transit official business without having received prior clearance for authority to land. But clearance was not requested for the two newspaper correspondents and the American businessman. Authorities at Dairen stated that they were unable to authorize entrance of these people without clearance from Moscow.

After failing in an attempt to obtain clearance, the ship left after its legal 48 hour stay expired. "It has been the hope of this government that the Chinese and Russians would be able to work out their differences to form a free commercial port. But we recognize this is matter to be handled by these two governments."

The garbled report was received by the State Department this morning in a telegram from Mr. Monroe B. Davis, U.S. Consul General at Shanghai. It had been relayed to him by Mr. Clarence J. Spiker, U.S. Consul General at Tsingtao, where the U.S. Seventh Fleet was based. Mr. Spiker's report was based on one by Courier Ball, who brought that from Dairen a memorandum that had been prepared by Mr. H. Merrell Benninghoff, U.S. Consul General in Dairen.—United Press.

### Police Officer's Tragic Death In Kowloon

Inspector Alexander Seddon Anderson, Officer in Charge of the Kowloon Police Station, Kowloon, met a tragic death on Christmas Day, while performing his duties as a police officer in Nathan Road near Argyle Street. He received severe injuries and died at the Kowloon Hospital soon after admission. Three European women have been detained in connection with the incident.

About 40 years of age, Inspector Anderson was a New Zealander. He joined the Shanghai Police Force in 1935, serving in the mounted police detachment and was awarded the Shanghai Police Medal in 1937 for exceptional work during the first Japanese attack on that port.

The late Inspector was interned at the outbreak of the Pacific War and was drafted to the Hongkong Police in October 1945. Despite his short stay in Hongkong, he was popular among the foreign community and was well liked by his colleagues.

The funeral will take place to-day, the cortege arriving at the Bluffs Road entrance to the Colonial Cemetery at 4.30 p.m.

On the application of the Crown Prosecutor, the charge of manslaughter against Constable Raymond Syed was dismissed by the Chief Justice this morning.

Mr. J. Reynolds, Crown Counsel, said this morning that he had been instructed by the Attorney General to enter a nolle prosequi. It was not the view of the Crown, however, that the conduct of the accused in the matter was entirely free from blame and summary proceedings would be instituted against him for assault.

His Lordship discharged accused.

SHANGHAI CRASH FIGURES Shanghai, Dec. 27. It is officially announced that the casualties in the triple plane crash were 70 killed and 10 injured.—United Press.

CAUSEWAY RAY INCIDENT Inspector A. I. Smith, of the Hongkong Police, was seriously injured in an altercation with a party of sailors in Causeway Bay on Christmas Eve and was removed to Hospital in an unconscious condition.

The French press was "truculent" to-day in one of the rare instances when the Right and Left Wings saw eye to eye. Newspapers unanimously (Continued on Page 4)

## FOURTH REPUBLIC OF FRANCE OFFICIALLY BORN ON XMAS EVE

### ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Paris, Dec. 24. The fourth Republic of France was officially born to-day when the Upper Chamber of the new Two-Chamber Parliament met this afternoon.

Henceforth all legislation in France passed by the National Assembly must be submitted to the Council of the Republic which can oblige the Lower House to reconsider its bills but which cannot actually prevent any legislation from being finally adopted.

On Friday the Upper Chamber will proceed to elect its president.

This will provide an occasion for an inter-party political struggle between the two strongest parties—the Popular Republicans who are the leading party in the Upper Chamber, and the Communists who are the leading party in the Lower House.

The most likely candidate to succeed for the presidency of the Upper House is 64-years old pre-war Parliamentarian and Minister Auguste Champetier de Ribes whose first ministerial post dates back to the Government of the late Andre Tardieu in 1920 and who also played an active part in resistance to Vichy and Ribes seems assured of the support not only of his own party but also of the Socialists.

Meanwhile all parties are actively preparing for the election of President of the Republic. This is the key position in the French political machine. Despite the limited functions awarded him by the constitution, the president of the Republic is bound to have a good deal of influence on political life.

There are as yet no official candidates, but unofficial candidates are Edouard Herriot, the ex-Premier and Radical leader and Vincent Auriol, the Socialist Speaker of the National Assembly.

Herriot has the support of the Communists whose cause he has directly supported during most of his political life and who is consequently unfavourably viewed by the Popular Republicans and the Rightists as well as a good number of Socialists.

System Of Voting The constitution is now clear on the point whether voting for the President of the Republic who is elected by members of the Lower and Upper House meeting at Versailles, is by public ballot or secret ballot.

If the pre-war system of secret ballot is resorted to, the election may produce a surprise as the party discipline will be difficult to enforce. Quite a number of Parliamentarians favour the election of General Charles de Gaulle and it is possible he might find himself elected without being previously consulted.

Whether he would accept the office in such circumstances is a matter of guesswork as neither he himself nor his intimates have expressed any opinion about this hypothetical situation. If he accepted it is generally agreed in political circles that this would mean that he views the situation in France as grave. The situation in Indo-China and the economic and financial prospects continue to give cause for preoccupation by the French Government.

While there were no reports of outstanding developments in Indo-China to-day the long-term prospects of the French position in the Far East are causing deep anxiety. Viet Nam rebels appear to have a considerable stock of arms and according to reliable sources in Paris these arms include American automatic rifles and machine guns of models so up-to-date that they were not even used in the Second World War.

They are assumed to have been smuggled in from China. General Leclerc's return to Indo-China is not universally welcomed here as his troops made themselves unpopular with the French colonials and natives alike when they went to Indo-China after liberation of the colony from the Japanese.

The economic situation at the end of the year remains unsatisfactory despite the short-term three months balanced ordinary budget which the Assembly voted on the eve of Christmas.

Well informed financial circles point out that there is no guarantee that the budget expenditure is estimated at the lower rate than will be necessary for the rest of the year, while revenue is calculated at a maximum rate for the whole year.—Reuter.

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### French Budget Approved By Assembly

Paris, Dec. 24. The French National Assembly this morning unanimously adopted the military part of the French budget, totalling 40,126,807,000 francs for the next three months.

The Assembly also adopted the armaments budget of 13,641,013,000 francs, figuring in the extraordinary budget.

During the debate the Socialist Minister for National Defence, Andre Le Troquer, referring to the French forces in Indo-China said: "There is no question of reducing French effectiveness in Indo-China. On the contrary, France is sending reinforcements."—Reuter.

### Girl Killed In Christmas Day Motor Accident

A Chinese girl was killed and another seriously injured in a traffic accident near Kai Tak airfield on Christmas Day.

The accident occurred about 4.30 p.m. in Saihung Road. The girls were walking along the pavement when a military-type three-ton lorry mounted the pavement and hit them. One of the girls, Nam Lai-lee, 26, living at 300 Portland Street, second floor, was run over by the wheels and had her head smashed. The other girl, Lau Pui-yuen, 17, of 731 Nathan Road, second floor, suffered abrasions in the head and was later removed to the Kowloon Hospital in a serious condition.

According to the police, the vehicle drove on without stopping to investigate.

About 10.30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, an eight-year-old girl named Li Shui-heung, living at 117 Matauel Road, suffered a fractured skull when she was knocked down by a three-ton lorry in Chatham Road.

### STOP PRESS

#### PEANUT HAWKER CASE DISMISSED

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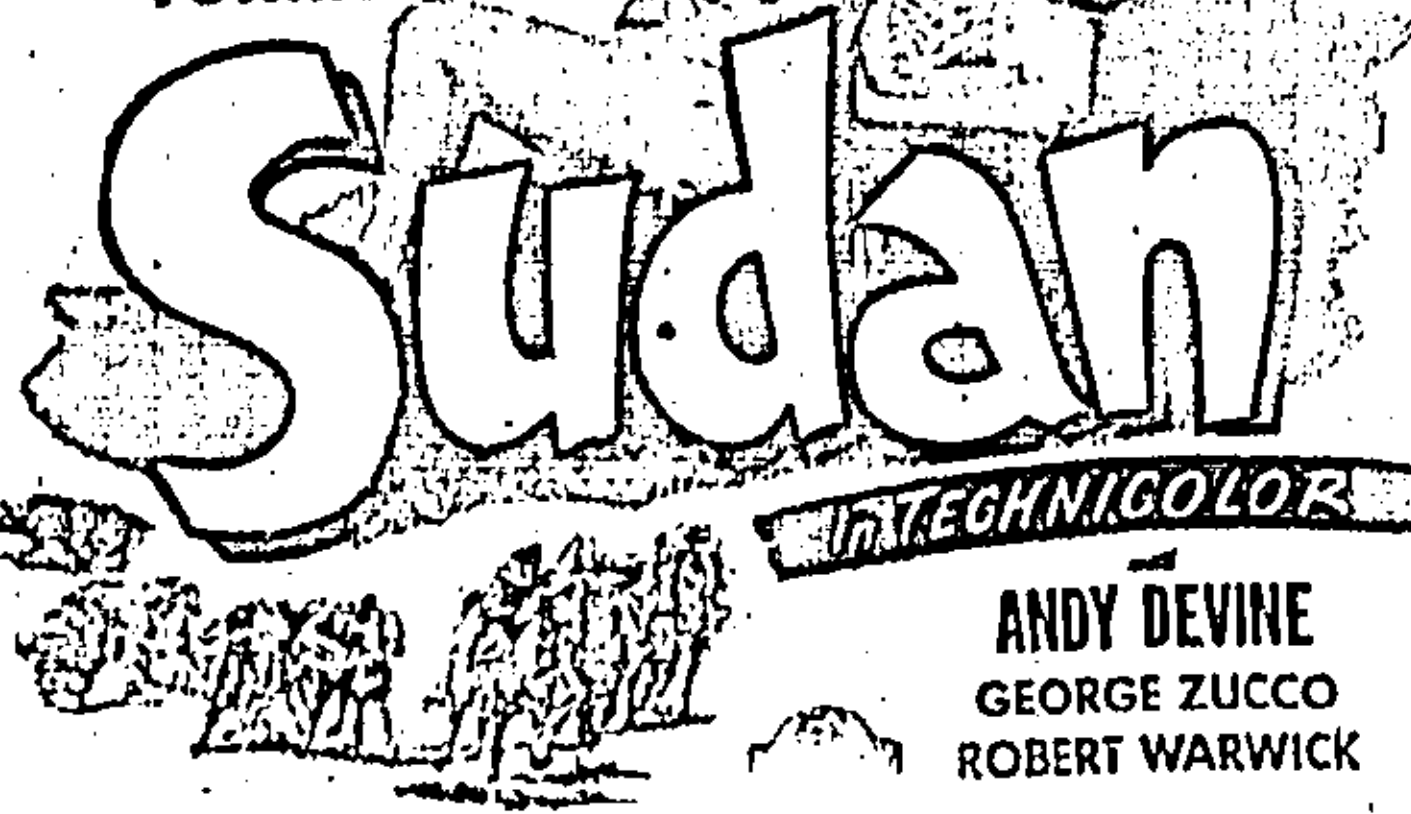


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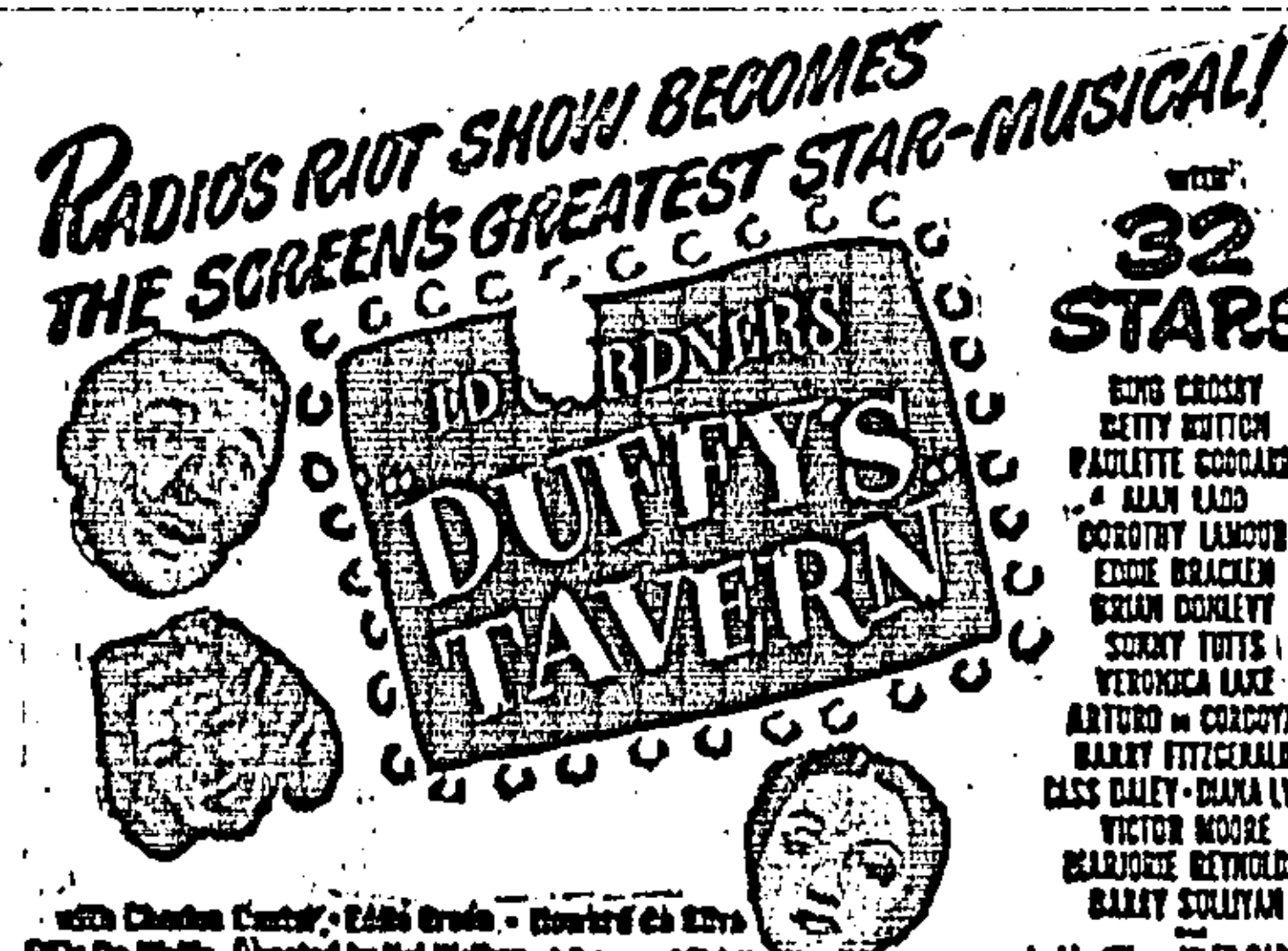
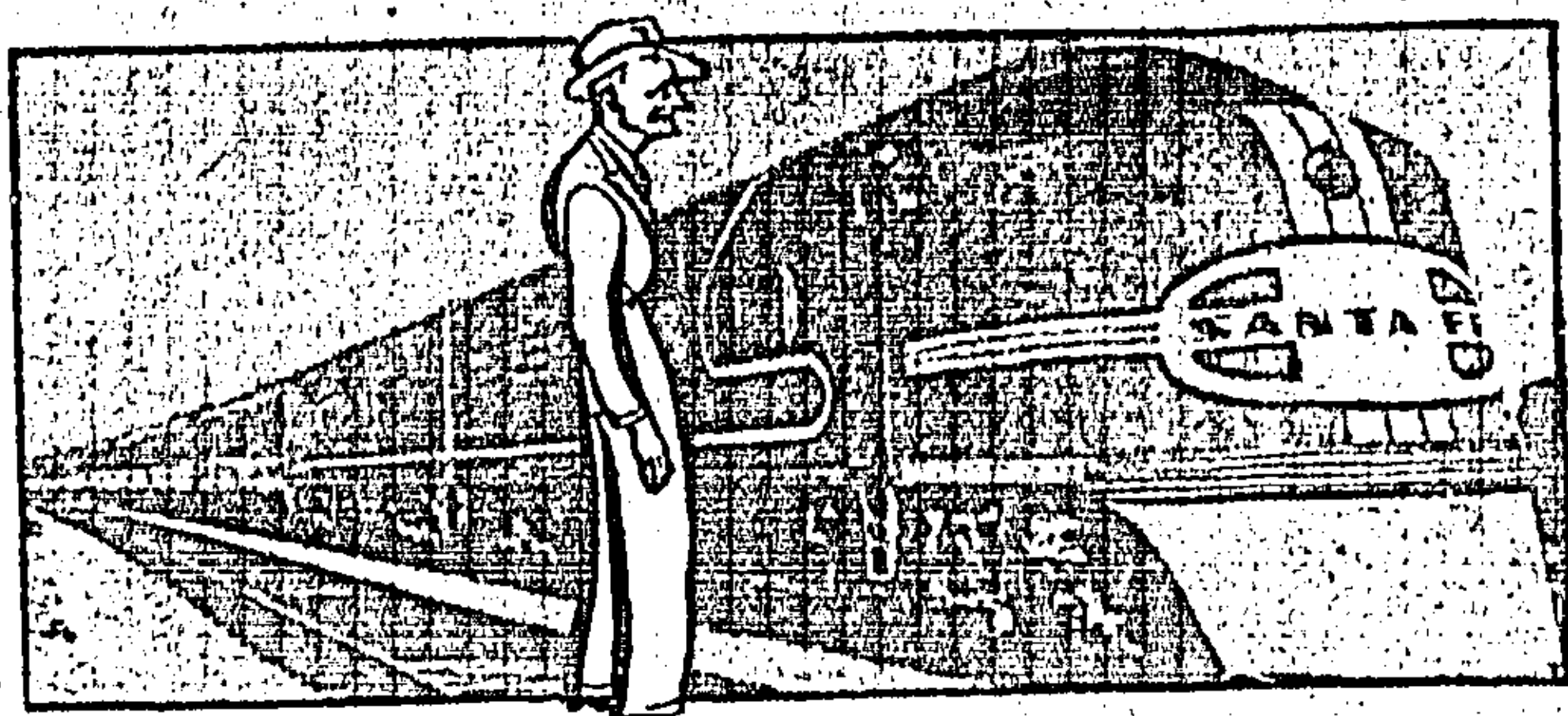
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JOURNEY

By PAUL HOLT

I TOOK a fabulous journey. It started in grey sea rain on the Pacific coast and wandered through snowstorms, high winds, and bright and tropical sunshines, ending on the Atlantic in crisp frost and a partial eclipse of the sun.

I felt no pain, neither heat nor cold, nor wind nor drenching. For three days I sat at ease, hermetically sealed in an air-conditioned aluminium biscuit tin, crowded with pretty gadgets to play with.

This was called a drawing-room on the world's most famous train, the Santa Fe Chief, running daily between Los Angeles and New York.

## THE LORDLY ONES—

THE aristocrats of radio and Hollywood use it as easily as a stockbroker travels from Redhill to Waterloo. They are great snobs and autocrats, and you have to mind your manners in their company.

Thus it is proper to arrive at the station decently and soberly clad, but as soon as the Chief starts to move, the world is shut away from you.

The high-priced beauties don slacks and bright sweaters, the agents, producers and promoters wear coloured shirts and fancy bags and moccasins.

They play gin rummy interminably, and hold cynical little boasting parties in their private drawing-rooms during which much liquor is swallowed and many reputations lawdried.

Notable in this exclusive company are the name-mentioners. These come in two categories. The humbler ones talk all the time about what Gable said to Garson and what they said to Peck.

The lordly ones—who are terrible—talk of Clark and Greer and Gregory.

## AND THE MATRON

THE fabulous journey took three days less two hours, and in that time the world lumbered over three times and many strange things happened.

Aloof from the throng rode Miss Joan Crawford. She had in her charge two lively, tow-headed children over whom she fussed in a matronly and determined way feeding them big spoonfuls of cod liver oil and blowing their noses.

She took no notice of her fellow-travellers and they took no notice of her.

I left Hollywood in a downpour and a litter and a ferment. Two of her favourite sons had been rude to her. Uncle Sam Goldwyn said that she had grown fat-cat contented and if she doesn't stop licking her buttered paws and start roaming in search of new mice there's a cold, cold alley awaiting her.

Walter Wanger, a London lad from Whitechapel who had grown rich by producing endless goey farces called Arabian Nights, said that British pictures were to-day earning 20 per cent. more in Britain than Hollywood pictures.

Although neither of these gents was being serious about it, their rich conferees began acting hurt and indignant, and such ugly words as "traitor" filled the air.

For here is the issue clear and strong. Hollywood to-day does not pride herself on being good, but on giving the public what it wants and wants.

And this has been achieved by the most complicated systems of polls and straw-balloons, quizzes and quests and competitions, and all kinds of intrusions into the private life of America.

On the ethics of this method I argued one night until 3 a.m. with one of the greatest producers of the day, Carey Wilson, who is now busy on "Green Dolphin Street."

Mr. Wilson won. He said: "If Christopher Ween had thought the British public wanted tall, skinny churches he would have built tall, skinny churches. If he had thought they would worship better in fat, dummy churches he would have built them. If the public had asked for two minarets on the top of St Paul's he would have put them there. That is all I am doing to-day."

THE Santa Fe Chief climbs quickly from the orange groves of California towards the wild, gloomy, Disneyish passes that wind and swirl upwards along the old Pony Express trail through New Mexico and Indian Territory.

And on and up again past the Petrified Forest to the pinnacles of Indian Pass, where Kit Carson fought the Indians.

The flat peaks seem lonely without Indian smoke signals, and the steeply snake of this train with its scurrying nose thrusting along the pass is a poor substitute for the old covered wagons.

These sulky crags ignore us. They despise the train as much as they despise the tiny settlers' shacks that cling to their shoulders. Not even in Russia, in the Arctic wastes below Murmansk, did I see such humble homes, built of wood, a nail and a prayer.

"In each one of those shacks," says the cynic who has come to visit, "there probably lives a GI bride." This same cynic is deeply interested in the recent House of Commons vote on foreign affairs. He is sure it bodes no good for Attlee.

"All those abstentions. Wasn't that the way they got Chamberlain out in 1940 to make way for Churchill?" I tried to explain that the parallel was imperfect.

He said it was like sending the Prime Minister to Coventry: I said contrariwise.

## AMERICA'S MOOD

BY this time night had fallen on the skies. Nature receded. Radio in club-car and lounge blared Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet," and Ethel Merman's "Doing what comes naturally" without favour.

Cards were face upwards on the table and a full house was beating two pairs, as is right and proper.

Dawn came and we were sitting on the shoulder of Colorado and reading the newspapers, which told us that America is in danger of rebellion.

I do not exaggerate. Both spark and mood are there. John L. Lewis again defied the Government. In calling out 400,000 soft-coal miners.

The country, still flushed and excited by the elections, is looking for a showdown with Labour, while President Truman, who no longer has a party majority in either House, dare not be conciliatory.

Lewis, inscrutable, does not show any sign that he fears the issue ahead. He knows you cannot dig coal with bayonets.

In Colorado the idle miners sit on their front porches.

You may be sure that they are not concerned that their idleness will bring back wartime blackouts to American cities, slow transport, shut down steel mills, and cause a thousand other unhappineses.

They simply calculate how long their credit will hold out at the village store.

They are vaguely aware that public sentiment is against them, but stand by Lewis, who may be able to call for a general strike in sympathy.

We came to the plains and peace. Through the black, ploughed soil of Missouri and Illinois, where the frame houses grow grander every hundred miles, and the barns brighter.

## SEEKING A SIGN

I RODE down from Chicago to the eastern seaboard through the night. A night that was a hell of glowing steel furnaces and a pretty heaven of coloured moving lights—a Christmas land of Neon-lit reindeers in the sky.

So back to New York and the sun. The shuffling crowds, now muffled against a biting wind, stare at the sky as though looking for a portent, a sign.

Everywhere you go there is a feeling of something about to happen. The people want something to happen, but they don't rightly know what it is they want. So in the meantime they continue to enjoy themselves, to spend more than they have got.

Turkeys are plentiful, and liquor is plentiful if you have got the price—while a night club clown called Joe E. Lewis sings a little song which sums up everything up very neatly: "There isn't any money in money any more," he sings.

## According To Culbertson

(Copyright, 1946, by Ely Culbertson)

To-day's deal strikingly illustrates how a master declarer, anticipating the non-break of a key suit, sets up an alternative plan.

West, dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠ A 5			
♥ D 5 4 3			
♦ A K Q 2			
♣ 7 4 2			
WEST			
♠ K 8 4			
♥ 8 7 2			
♦ 8			
♣ A K Q 5 3			
EAST			
♠ 7 6 3 2			
♥ 9			
♦ J 10 9 4			
♣ 8 6			
SOUTH			
♠ Q 10			
♥ A K Q J 10			
♦ 7 5 3			
♣ J 10 9			

The bidding:  
West 1♣, North 1♠, East 2♠, South 3♠.

West collected three club tricks, then shifted to his singleton diamond. Dummy's queen won, and East signalled enthusiastically with the jack, wanting to reassure his partner that he, East, had dummy's fourth diamond well covered.

South took the cognizance of this interplay in the diamond suit, and since he would have been sceptical, even without warning, about getting a 3-3 break of the outstanding diamonds, he became all the more determined not to stake everything on that chance. Perhaps he couldn't protect himself—but then again, maybe he could!

South drew the necessary three rounds of trumps, then carefully led the spade queen through West, who was marked with the king for his opening bid. West covered, and the ace won. Now another top diamond was cashed and the expected break was revealed. Declarer returned to his own hand with a trump and cashed his last trump, discarding dummy's spade five. East was finished! He knew that South had another diamond to reach dummy, hence East had to hold two diamonds to stop the suit; but when he discarded his spade jack, South of course cashed the spade ten.

South's planning was admirable. He recognized that East was marked with a diamond stopper, hence that the only chance was to find him with the spade jack as well, so that his side's spade stopper could be transferred to him, rather than West. It must be observed that the lead of the spade queen had to be made before South actually tested the diamond suit, for entry reasons.

THE DEADLOCK  
IN INDIA

—by—

THE RIGHT HON. L. S. AMERY  
formerly Secretary of State for India

THE issue created by the deadlock between the Indian leaders is of the gravest character in its possible effect not only upon India and the British Empire but also upon the peace of the world.

On the other hand, it is not an issue of party politics in Britain.

The policy of accepting complete Indian self-government initiated by the Act of 1935 was carried to its logical conclusion without a dissentient voice in Parliament while I was Secretary of State, and the efforts of the present Cabinet Mission in India have only been concerned with putting that policy into effect.

There would be little difficulty in the way of the immediate establishment of complete Indian independence whether within or without the British Commonwealth if India were a single homogeneous people.

Nor would there be very great difficulty if the main division between the Indian peoples coincided with any natural geographical or economic division.

## CLEAVAGE

THE difficulty lies in the intensity of the cleavage between the Moslems and Hindus and in the fact that both elements live intermingled in varying proportions over the whole of a sub-continent which, for the purposes of defence in the modern world as well as for the purposes of trade and communications, is essentially a single unit.

When the Hindu majority is represented by the Congress Party demands, an effectively centralised Government for the whole of India they are demanding something which Moslem opinion is not prepared to tolerate.

When, on the other hand, Mr Jinnah, leader of the Moslem League, demands a division of India into two completely separate countries he is asking something not only difficult from the practical point of view but fiercely resented by the Hindus and no less by the Sikhs who would be separated from the main body of Hinduism.

It was in these conditions that the Cabinet Mission devised an ingenious compromise under which there should be a Central Government mainly confined to defence and foreign policy, while at the same time predominantly Moslem provinces should be able to form themselves into groups exercising all the remaining powers of sovereignty.

In order to make this possible they laid down in their memorandum of May 1946 that the Constituent Assembly should begin by dividing itself into sections, two of which, one including the three provinces of the North West and the other the two provinces of the North East, namely Assam and Bengal, should be free if they wished to constitute a group or groups and so satisfy at any rate the greater part of the Moslem demands.

Mr Jinnah accepted these proposals. Congress did the same a little later, but with the reservation that they did so subject to their own interpretation.

The Cabinet Mission, unfortunately, I think, allowed this reservation to pass without insisting on a quite clear compliance with what they intended to be the working out of their scheme.

As I understand it, the Congress interpretation now is that the sections would not be free to vote by a majority of the representatives taking part, but that the representatives of any particular province, as a province, are to be free to veto the formation of a group.

## AN INTERVAL

THIS would in effect frustrate the whole purpose of the whole Cabinet Mission scheme, and it is not surprising that in view of this Mr Jinnah is reluctant to agree to his followers attending the Constituent Assembly.

Fortunately the opening of the Assembly is purely formal, and the more serious business of getting down to the sections is not likely to take place for some months.

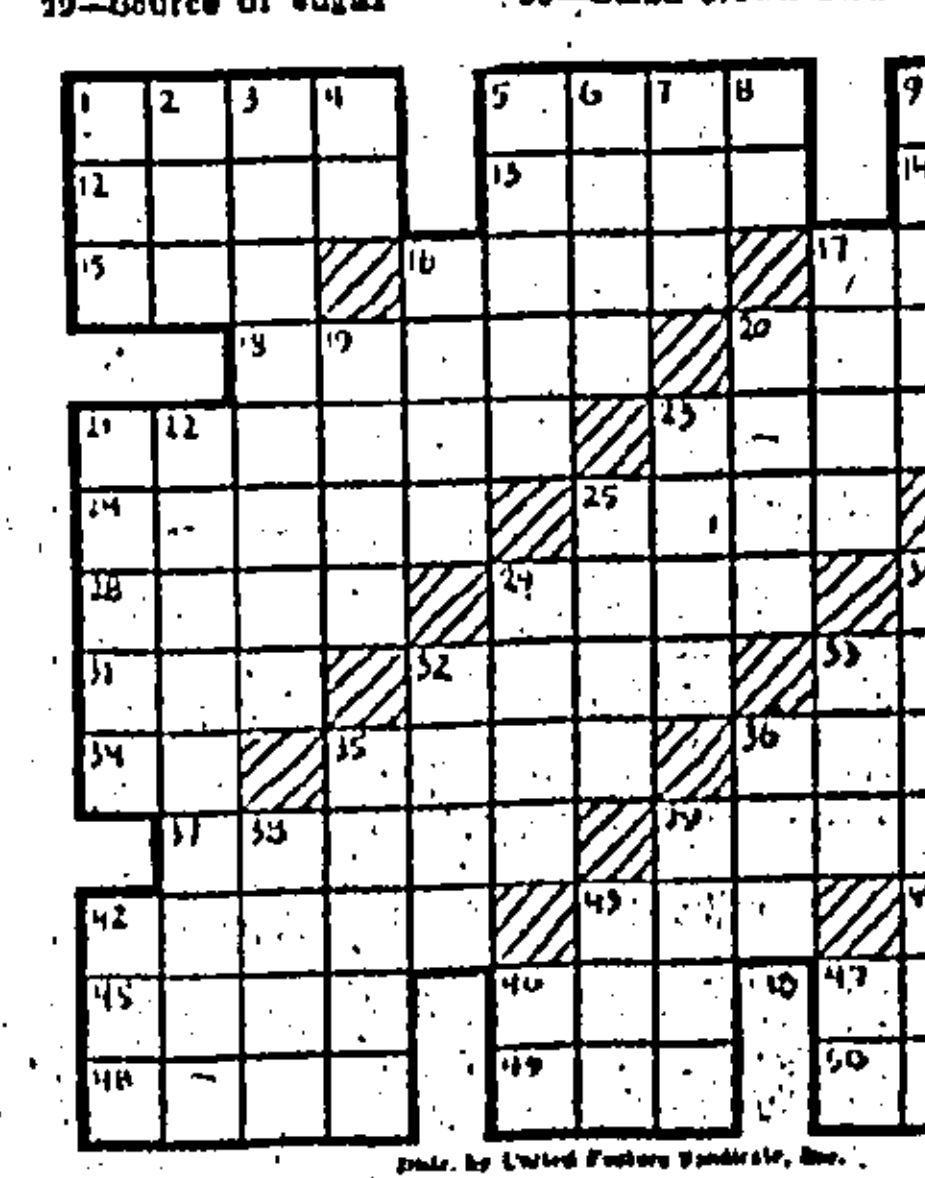
That provides at any rate an interval during which agreement can still be found.

Meanwhile one can only hope that during these months the coalition executive, in which both parties share at the centre, will continue, and that, face to face with the immensely difficult problems of India's future and with the abyss of civil war before them, they will still be able to come to some sort of agreement.

But the sands are running down very fast.

## Crossword Puzzle

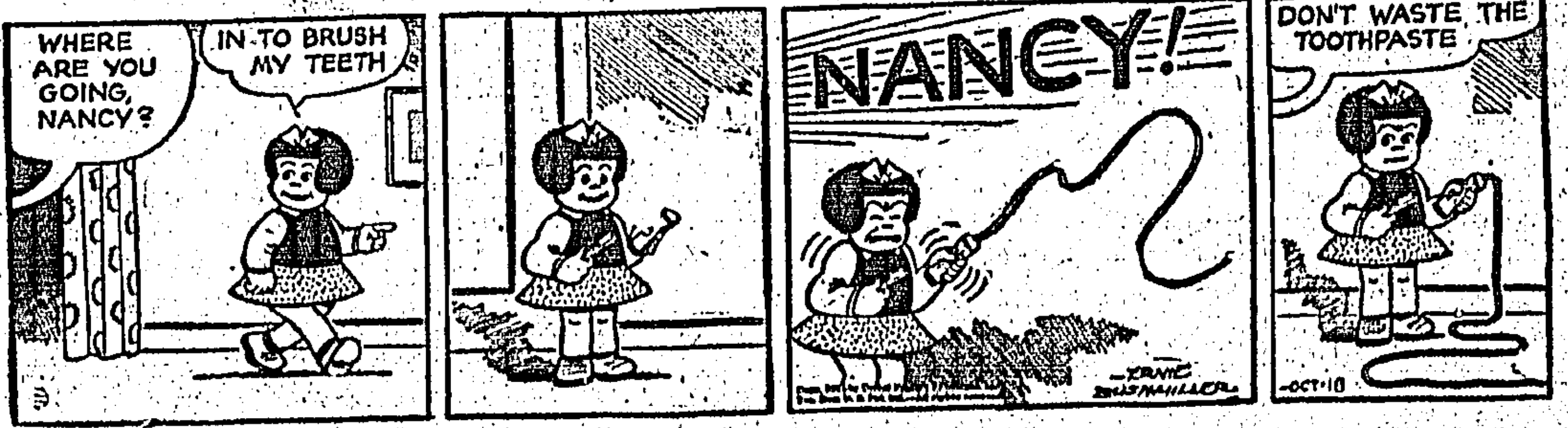
- 1—In right mind  
2—What miner seeks  
3—What flower  
4—Inland sea  
5—Biblical country  
6—Party winks  
7—Patience  
8—Staunch  
9—Rub with cloth  
10—Stone to the capital  
11—Engine  
12—Rut  
13—Virt, to tone  
14—Glove  
15—Wagon  
16—Printer's measure  
17—Pillipine  
18—Source of sugar



## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

- 1—Liquid source of maple sugar  
2—The altar  
3—Part to a people  
4—Spanish article  
5—River in fables  
6—Oil (comb form)  
7—Mother tongue  
8—Tire width of an  
9—Cliff's name  
10—Former dictator  
11—Mimic  
12—Landscape  
13—Habit  
14—Andromeda  
15—Unit of weight  
16—Those who deal  
17—Sharp taste  
18—Last sweet  
19—Noted uncle  
20—Opera solo  
21—Lap  
22—Ingredients in punch  
23—Tramp  
24—Last sweet  
25—Noted uncle  
26—Opera solo  
27—Lap  
28—High note  
29—Lap  
30—Compass point

## NANCY Please—Not So Loud!





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**HUMPHREY BOGART** in "THE BIG SHOT"

**IRENE MANNING**

## YACHT CLUB CHRISTMAS REGATTA

The following are full published details of the 2-day Regatta being held at Kellet Island this week-end:

### Ladies' Race

This will be held at 10.10 a.m. to-morrow. All entries so far received have been accepted and further entries can be taken at Kellet Island up to 10 a.m.

### Individual Sweepstake Race

This will be held in 14-ft. dinghies at 10.15 to-morrow. Entries for this can be accepted up to 10 a.m. at the Club house.

### Whalers' Pulling Race

Owing to the exceptionally large number of entries the first four heats of the whaler pulling will be held to-day starting at 3.30 p.m. The first four boats in each heat will go into semi-finals at 10.15 and 10.45 to-morrow and the first four boats in each semi-final will compete in the final race at 11.45 to-morrow.

### Star Class Series

Owing to the number of entries it will be necessary to hold four heats and a final. The first two boats from Heats 1, 2 and 4 and the winning boat in Heat 3 will take part in the final. Details from the draw for Heats and times of starting are as follows:

Heat I	Heat III
Start Sat. 10 a.m.	Saturday 2.30 p.m.
Boats	Boats
Vernon	McLeod
Douglas	Lapper
Owen	Thompson
Wilkinson	Howard
Frank	G. Gardner
7 Stanning	Walton R.
Heat II	Heat IV
Saturday 12 noon	Saturday 10.15 a.m.
Boats	Boats
Puttick	Walton A.
Pratt	Sedgewick
Andrews	Childell
Avien	Furlong
Neck	Wheeler
	Cooke S.M.
	Couchman

### Team Race in 14 ft. Dinghies

Eight teams of six boats will compete for the R.N.S.A. Trophy. All the dinghies have been divided into four groups and details of the dinghy groups and of the draw are as follows:

Each group will have a racing flag of its group colour on the yard. The first Heat will be held to-morrow starting at 2 p.m., the 2nd Heat on Sunday starting at 10.10 a.m. and the final which will consist of the first two from each Heat, will start 2.20 p.m. on Sunday. All boats in each team count towards the team score. The first boat scores 24 and so on downwards, the team winning the highest score being the winning team. In the event of two teams obtaining the same number of points, the team with the highest placed boats wins.

Group	Heat I
Commandos	Red
Royal Air Force	Yellow
Civilian A	Blue
Navy II	Green
Heat II	Heat III
Civilian B	Blue
Dockyard	Green
& Tamar	Red
Army	Heat IV
Blue	Yellow
Green	Commodore II
Black	Donavento I
Cosack	Duke of York I
Blue	Stonecutters IV
Belmont	Venerable I
Hermuda I	Verona Day
Red	Green
Thyne II	Cosack I
Admiral	Cockade
Adamant V	Green
Stonecutters III	Contest
Adamant I	Adamant IV
Glory I	Alert
Reserves	Heat V
Duke of York II	Hermuda II
Venerable II	Yellow
Stonecutters II	Commodore I
Adamant III	Adamant V
Glory II	Fort Langley

### Whalers' Trevesa Race

This race starts at 10 a.m. on Sunday.

### Trevesa Trophy

Full details of this race and the conditions and rules for boats have been widely circulated to all ship owners and crews. Boats may be pulled and sailed at the same time. Start will be at 2.15 p.m. on Sunday, starting line being near Channel rock and the course for the life

## Home Soccer Results

London, Dec. 25.  
Results of soccer games played to-day are:

### First Division

Arsenal	1	Portsmouth	1
Blackburn	2	Sheff. Wed.	1
Blackpool	1	Sheff. Wed.	1
Bolton	2	Sheff. Wed.	1
Chelsea	1	Sheff. Wed.	1
Everton	4	Sheff. Wed.	1
Grimsby	3	Sheff. Wed.	1
Leeds United	3	Sheff. Wed.	1
Sheff. Wed.	0	Sheff. Wed.	1
Stoke City	2	Sheff. Wed.	1
Sunderland	0	Sheff. Wed.	1

### Second Division

Birmingham	3	Swansea Town	1
Bradford	1	Leicester City	1
Burnley	1	Nottingham	1
Cardiff	1	Sheff. Wed.	1
Coventry	3	Tottenham	1
Manchester C.	4	Wolverhampton	1
Newcastle	1	Sheff. Wed.	1
Newport County	2	West Bromwich	1
West Ham U.	2	Wolverhampton	1

### Third Division South

Aldershot	0	Port Vale	0
Bournemouth	0	Norwich	0
Bristol City	1	Exeter City	1
Bristol Rovers	2	Walsall	1
Crystal Palace	0	Torquay United	1

## XMAS FOOTBALL RESULTS

### International Charity Cup Competition (First Round)

China	3	England	0
Portugal	4	Scotland	2

Orient	0	Cardiff City	1
Nottingham	2	Reading	1
Nottingham	2	Bristol City	1
Nottingham	2	Swindon Town	1
Nottingham	2	Walsall	1
Nottingham	2	Southend United	1

Carlisle United	4	Barrow	1
Crewe	2	Rotherham U.	1
Doncaster II	2	Darlington	1
Gillingham	2	Wrexham	1
Hull City	2	Accrington	1
Hull City	2	Bradford City	1
Hull City	2	Fulham	1
Hull City	2	New Brighton	1
Hull City	2	Stockport	1
Hull City	2	York City	1
Hull City	2	Lincoln City	1

Scottish A Division	0	Queens Park	0
Scottish B Division	0	Clyde	0
Scottish C Division	0	Clyde	0

## Correspondence

### Barristers and Solicitors

(To the Editor HK Telegraph)

Sir,—Concerning "Barristers and Solicitors", I should like to know whether it is correct that barristers study the law for three years and solicitors five years.

If this is so (and I am told that I am correct) it is peculiar why the man who studied the law for five years cannot appear in the High Court, whereas the three year man may.

During the last 12 months or so I have seen a solicitor one or two licking the daylight out of Crown counsel and barristers in case after case, and I for me will raise holy Cain if ever I get into trouble in a criminal case (knock wood!) and cannot get the particular solicitor I want to defend me.

HUMPHREY

boats being round Kowloon Rock finishing at Kellet Island. Further entries for this race can be accepted up to half an hour before the start. Life boats will be towed to the starting point at Channel Rock and back to their ships after the finishing at Kellet Island.

A race for Service whalers under the same conditions as for the Trevesa Trophy race which is for ships' life boats only, will be held over the same course starting at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Rubber Dinghy Race  
Entries will be taken at the Club on Sunday morning for the race in rubber dinghies which takes place at noon on Sunday.

## SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"I'll find out who my husband is for, and vote for the other man—that way we'll be fair to all the candidates!"

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## SERVICES PERSONNEL ARRIVE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Southampton, Dec. 26.  
Two thousand and two hundred British Service men and women

arrived home for Christmas from India and the Middle East to-day. For many, it was their first Christmas home for many years.

This large number arrived in the liner Ranchi, which docked three and a half hours late because of fog. But special arrangements were made to get the men and women

away and in their homes for Christmas. Wireless messages had been sent on ahead by the officer commanding the troops and the organisation

worked so smoothly that the men began disembarking ten minutes after the gangways had lashed the shore and ship—router.



## KING GEORGE BROADCASTS TO PEOPLE

London, Dec. 25. Courage was the keynote of the King's Christmas Day broadcast from Sandringham, where the Royal family are spending their holiday.

The King said: "The Christmas Day, surrounded by our family circle in our own home, the Queen and I are thinking of that worldwide family of the British Commonwealth and Empire.

"To each member of that family, young and old, composed of so many races and dwelling in so many climes, we send our heartfelt and affectionate greetings.

"Wherever you are and whatever your circumstances, our prayer is that this Christmas Eve will bring to you peace and blessing. Christmas you peace and blessing and to revive our faith and courage as the old year dies and the new year is born.

"The year that is passing has not been easy. Statesmen and politicians have been burdened with the resettlement of a world that has been shattered and ruined by a global war.

"In office, shop and warehouse, and in farm, men and women have been troubled and harassed by the economic and economic dislocation that always follow in its wake. All of us instead of getting some well-earned relaxation after years of intensive work have had to turn our shoulders to the wheels of industry and agriculture with redoubled vigour.

Men and women have returned from wartime service to conditions that are only slowly improving from wartime austerity, while the housewife perhaps the most gallant figure of all—still bears many of the extra burdens which she bore so bravely throughout the war.

With all these trials to be faced, I am indeed proud that you are able to maintain that energy and cheerfulness—that courage—which this difficult time demands of us all.

"We cannot expect the world so grievously wounded to recover quickly, but its convalescence can certainly be hastened by our continued endurance and goodwill.

**Much To Be Thankful For**

"We showed the way when bombs were falling. By our discipline, our endurance and our patience, we can show the way again. In our own good time, God will lead our feet into the ways of peace.

"Though days may be difficult, let us not forget how much we have to be thankful for. We have survived the greatest upheaval in human history. Our human liberties and our democratic institutions are unimpaired. Our Commonwealth and Empire, though subject to changes that time must bring, has not been disrupted by the stress and peril of war. We are celebrating Christmas as free men and in peace.

"Christmas is the season in which we count our mercies. Though there are many little things lacking that can add colour and variety to life, big things for so many of us have come back—big things which we longed for in the blitz, in desert and in lonely places of sea or jungle. We are back most of us with those we love. Guns have ceased to kill and bombs have ceased to fall.

"And though clouds are still dark, there is light behind them. Better days lie ahead. Let us not concentrate too much on the difficulties of the present—they will pass—nor on memories of unhappy experiences which all of us have had. Let us rather think of possibilities that the future may hold for us.

"Our task to-day is to mobilise the Christmas spirit and apply its power and healing to our own lives. The devastation and suffering everywhere and especially in stricken Europe must move the hearts of all of us, but reconstruction so urgently needed everywhere is quite as much spiritual as material.

**Soul Of Civilisation**

"It is necessary not merely to feed the hungry people and to rebuild the ruined cities, but also to restore the very soul of civilisation.

"We cannot all think alike amid the dilemmas of a changing world. Nor is it right that we should. Opinion striking against opinion ignites the spark that can kindle the lamp of truth.

"But if our feet are on the road of common charity that leads to ultimate truth, our differences will never destroy our underlying unity and our disputes will not leave us either embittered or unkind.

"If the coming year has its uncertainties it is because of the By God's help and by our own endeavours, let us make these brighter promises come true.

"My dear people, I wish you well. May the New Year be full of blessing for each one of you. Welcome it when it comes with hope and courage and greet the unseen with a cheer."—Reuter.

### BETTING ON TESTS

Melbourne, Dec. 24. Betting anywhere in the Melbourne cricket ground, in contrary to regulations, said Mr. Hunsford, Secretary of the Ground Trustees, when replying to a question whether any action could be taken to prevent betting during the third Test match starting on January 1.

Cables to London which drew a statement from the MCC were apparently based on the Sydney paper story saying bookmakers turned Shorland stand at Sydney into a betting ring, mounting the seats and calling odds while blocking the view of cricket enthusiasts, he said.—Reuter.

### CHILDREN'S FEATURES

To-morrow, the Hongkong Telegraph will commence publication, by special arrangement with the Daily Express, London, of a daily illustrated feature for children, "Rupert and Ninky." To-morrow's edition will contain the usual popular Saturday features.

# SECOND CHRISTMAS OF PEACE FINDS PEOPLE IN MOOD FOR GAIETY

## BRITONS APPEAL FOR CHRISTIAN CHARITY TOWARDS VANQUISHED COVENTRY AND HAMBURG EXCHANGE GREETINGS

London, Dec. 25. The "joys" of home which are always the keynote of the Feast of Nativity in Britain were perhaps even more so in this second Christmas of peace, which sees most of the younger members of British families back in civilian life.

In spite of austerity and high prices, families gathered in rooms more fully decorated than for the past seven years and some of the more exotic delicacies such as mandarin and pomegranates made a welcome return to the Christmas table.

But for everyone, the background of these difficult days of peace making and worldwide troubles aftermath of war gave a new and urgent significance to the Christian message of peace and goodwill towards all men. Indeed, many were those who added to the traditional greeting the wish that the coming year may at last see the true beginning of a new era for mankind.

The appeal for Christian charity towards the vanquished and suffering masses of shattered Europe, which was included in the Pope's Christmas message yesterday, was also made by many religious leaders in Britain.

Exchange of greetings between the pastors of Coventry and Hamburg and two cities which suffered most violent air raids during the war—was broadcast by the BBC and in his Christmas sermon, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Fisher, said: "The message of Christmas is joy and peace. How can we speak of such things in the face of the hardships, physical and moral in many parts of Europe and all that must oppress the mind and spirit of every man. Because Christmas tells us how peace and joy are to be found, man cannot create them for himself. Christ came to give them and man must be humble enough to receive them from him. As you worship, all ye faithful, may you find joy and peace of Christ to arm you for your conflict and his. The world so needs both."

At St. Paul's Cathedral—standing proudly amid devastation wrought by German bombs which still vividly recalls the war days—Londoners sang traditional Christmas hymns and made gifts of money to help the children of once occupied Europe, while the Bishop of London, Dr. Wand, preaching to a large congregation at Fulham parish church, declared that no one who had not travelled on the continent could appreciate the terrible amount of sorrow there was. "We are gathered with our families at our home firesides," he said, "but there are millions who have no fireside at which

to gather and no one to call friend at this Christmas time."

For the first time in many parts of Britain, German prisoners of war were allowed out of their camps unescorted and joined congregations in some churches. Some were invited to Christmas parties in private houses and for others larger meals were provided in camps.

A German Lutheran priest preached at the Battle parish church near Hastings to parishioners and German prisoners from a nearby camp. The Germans sang two carols in German and one prisoner played the organ. On Christmas Eve, large groups of prisoners attended the festival in beautiful York Minster, one of the most perfect examples of perpendicular architecture in England.—Reuter.

**Forty-Third Consecutive Knock-Out**

Baltimore, Maryland, Dec. 24. Billy Fox, 174 lbs. of Philadelphia, to-day scored his 43rd consecutive knock-out when he stopped Chicago's Reedy Evans (170 lbs.) in the second round of a scheduled 10-round bout.

It was Fox's last fight before he meets the Champion, Gus Lescovici, for the light heavyweight title in New York's Madison Square Garden early in February.—United Press.

### TO-MORROW'S CRICKET

The following will represent the KCC against the RAF at the KCC to-morrow afternoon at 2 p.m.: E. C. Fincher (Capt.), R. E. Lee, F. R. Zimmerman, A. Zimmerman, F. I. Zimmerman, F. A. Broadbridge, C. I. Stapleton, J. Fenton, C. Tierman, K. Lo, F. E. Lawrence, Umpire, R. Leigh; scorer, T. W. Carr.



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## Christmas Eve Broadcast By Pope

Rome, Dec. 24. His Holiness Pope Pius XII, in a Christmas Eve broadcast over the Vatican Radio to-day, said: "All over Europe people are in a state of constant anxiety that flames of a new conflict may blast forth; for millions of human beings the tension is too great.

"The spring is taut and may snap at any moment."

The efforts of the statesmen, he said, were recognised, but their solutions had been feeble.—Reuter.

**Appeal To Statesmen**

Vatican City, Dec. 25. Pope Pius XII declared that "the flames of new conflicts" and appealed to the world's statesmen to speedily achieve peace to "have the world free from incalculable shocks and disorders."

In a Christmas Eve address the Pope said the Atlantic Charter in some countries seemed to be counter-fact of what its promulgators intended.

Without mentioning the atom bomb specifically the Pope said that "the might of new instruments of destruction has brought the problem of disarmament into the centre of international discussions under completely new aspects and provides an incentive threat never felt before."

The Pope begged the world's statesmen to "let the new year see peace a reality."

He urged them to: (1) Remove "the dangerous international tensions" and direct all their energies toward "putting an end to the present intolerable state and hasten, as soon as possible, the coming of a definite peace among all states"; and (2) Apply all forces of your mind and will to give to your work of peace the seal of true justice and far seeing wisdom of sincere service the common interests of the entire human family.—Associated Press.

## FOURTH REPUBLIC OF FRANCE OFFICIALLY BORN ON XMAS EVE

(Continued from Page 1)

ly supported the Prime Minister's speech to the Assembly yesterday in which he indicated the French policy in disordered Indo-China would be of force with force and settle the colonial problem with the Viet Namhese only when "peaceful order has been fully re-established."

At one time, the Right and Left wing papers indicated that they had their own ideas on how this colonial problem should be settled.

After complimenting the Prime Minister, M. Leon Blum, on his brief and forceful statement, Laube, Right-wing popular Republican Party paper, wrote: "We would not be surprised if they (the Viet Namhese leaders) already, bitterly regretted having suffered by brutal aggression the agreements of March 6, which France for her part has never lost sight of letter or spirit."

The Laube said that the Viet Namhese were prompted to take extreme measures by what they in their propaganda had described as "hesitations" in France.

"The Viet Namhese leaders should be intelligent enough to know that those who link any 'hesitations' in France with the illusion that France is ready to abandon everything, are balancing on the edge of a precipice."

M. Blum's own Socialist paper Populaire wrote: "We hope that the declarations by M. Leon Blum will signal an imminent danger to French interests if one insists on clinging to outmoded formulas. We also hope that the leader of the Viet Namh Republic will recognise the nobility and generosity of these declarations and will do all in his power and France in her efforts to end the conflict which has just broken out."

Also supporting a firm policy, the Independent Resistance paper "Combat" wrote: "In face of such a situation, where the horrors of war have replaced dialogue and negotiation, it is imperative that the attitude of France be shown to be restrained without question—not arrogant and not feeble, but conforming to human dignity."

The Communist "Humanite" described M. Blum's declarations as "perfectly reasonable" at the same time commenting nothing on those in the Assembly who are still clinging to what the paper describes as the "old colonial policy" and not the new constitutional version as outlined by M. Blum yesterday.

The "Humanite" wrote: "In approving the constitution, the French people among other things condemned the old colonial system. Those who are now ready to go back on that action indicate that they have made only a hollow gesture and by going back on this point of the constitution, they leave doubts as to their loyalty to the rest."—Reuter.

### SHAH IMPROVING

London, Dec. 24. The Shah of Persia, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, who has been suffering from a cold and high temperature, is improving, but is still under medical treatment, the Teheran radio reported, quoting a medical bulletin issued today.—Reuter.

## Christmas Eve Easier For Men To Die Together In Battle Than Live Together In Peace

Washington, Dec. 24. "We have made a good start towards peace in the world. Ahead of us lies the larger task of making the peace secure. All is not in harmony in the world to-day," said President Harry Truman, in a Christmas broadcast to the nation to-night.

"We have found it is easier for men to die together on the field of battle than it is for them to live together at home in peace. But those who have died have died in vain if in some measure at least we do not preserve for peace that spiritual unity in which we won the war.

"The problems facing the United Nations—the world's hope for peace—overwhelm faint hearts. But as we continue to labour for an enduring peace throughout that great organisation, we must remember that the world was not created in a day.

"We shall find strength and courage this Christmas because so brave a beginning has been made."

**Appeal For Peace**

Washington, Dec. 24. President Truman in his Christmas Eve appeal for world peace, called for "unanimous faith and courage" to achieve the aims of the United Nations.

The President admitted that the problems facing the United Nations—"the world's hope for peace"—overwhelm "faint hearts" and added: "As we continue to labour for an enduring peace through that great organisation we must remember that the world was not created in a day.

The President's five-minute speech was made after he pressed the button lighting the National community Christmas tree on the south lawn of the White House. The broadcast was sent to the nation over all major radio networks.

President Truman, who will fly home to-morrow to spend Christmas Day with his family at Independence, Missouri, voiced confidence that "we shall find strength and courage at this Christmas time because so brave a beginning has been made. So with faith and courage we shall work to hasten the day when the world will be replaced by peace and the nations do not learn war any more."

The President attributed "most of our troubles" to the "selfishness and greediness of individual or nation."

He said the teachings of Christ demonstrated the inadequacy of these selfish and greedy emotions. "Although we may not hope for a new heaven and a new earth in our day, we may strike with undaunted faith and courage to achieve at present some measure of that unity with which our allies went forth to win the war."

"We have made a good start toward peace in the world. Ahead of us lies a larger task of making the peace secure."—United Press.

**Truman As Santa Claus**

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### COLD & CLOUDY CHRISTMAS DAY IN TOKYO

Tokyo, Dec. 25. Christmas Day was cold and cloudy in Tokyo but the American occupation forces had big Christmas dinners in warm billets. Light snow fell in the Tokyo area during the night, but disappeared rapidly.

Downtown Tokyo was crowded by Japanese since this is a Japanese holiday as well as an American holiday. To-day is the anniversary of the death of Emperor Taisho, father of Hirohito. Therefore to-day is a national holiday.—United Press.

## NO OLYMPIC GAMES FOR GERMANY OR JAPAN

London, Dec. 24. Germany and Japan will definitely not compete in the Olympic Games in 1948. This decision was made known to-day by the International Olympic Committee which, in the New Year, will issue invitations to the various countries to participate in the Games.

Invitations will go only to countries possessing National Olympic Committees and as Germany and Japan have no such associations now, they will be barred from the Games.—Reuter.

## OVER THREE HUNDRED KILLED IN U.S. DURING HOLIDAYS

New York, Dec. 26. A survey to-day showed that the Christmas holiday was marred by the violent death of at least 301 persons throughout the United States. Accidents on crowded streets and highways accounted for 220 deaths.

Highway traffic was reported to be the heaviest on record for a Christmas holiday.

The survey showed at least 81 people killed in miscellaneous accidents, fires and shootings.—United Press.

It was the Japanese coming down from Lingayen, coming up from Bicol. It was recurring air raid alarms that seemed to mean winged formations of white square winged planes flying so leisurely, so scornfully over the city."—Associated Press.

General Joseph McNamery, the Commander-in-Chief of the American occupation troops in Germany, told the Germans to-day in a Christmas message that the American occupation troops in Germany were not inspired by a feeling of revenge and did not intend to prolong their present difficulties. He added that the U.S. Government's policy towards Germany was clearly expressed in the speech by Mr. Byrnes, the State Secretary, at Stuttgart, when he said: "It is not the wish of the American people to enslave the German people."—Reuter.

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## DUSK TO DAWN CURFEW IN BOMBAY AREA

Bombay, Dec. 24. A dusk to dawn curfew for seven days was imposed to-night on a one square mile area in the northern Bombay where sporadic stabbings have been reported after the lifting of the citywide curfew three weeks ago.

The order is "a punitive" measure, the Bombay Government stated.—Reuter.

**Stone-Throwing Incident**

Bombay, Dec. 25. The police fired two rounds in central Bombay to-day to stop stone-throwing by crowds, to-night's Bombay Government "riot communique" said.

One person was slightly injured by a crude explosive in another central Bombay area.

The communique also reported five knife attacks, one case of acid throwing and fire which caused damage estimated at Rs.750.—Reuter.

**Cholera Epidemic Feared**

Peshawar, Dec. 25. An outbreak of cholera in epidemic form is feared throughout the North-west Frontier Province of India, an official announcement stated to-day.—Reuter.

**Jinnah's Birthday**

Bombay, Dec. 25. Moslems throughout India to-day celebrated the 70th birthday of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, President of the All-India Muslim League.

Mr. Jinnah himself spent the day quietly at his birthplace, Karachi, where he has been staying since he returned from taking part in the recent talks between Congress and Moslem League leaders and members of the British Government.

In a message thanking all Moslems who sent him birthday greetings, Mr. Jinnah said: "Maintain unity and discipline and success is yours. I feel confident that we shall realise our cherished goal of Pakistan."—Reuter.

**Gandhi's Walking Tour**

Srirampur, East Bengal, Dec. 25. At the opening of the New Year, Gandhi will start a village to village "walking tour" in the Noakhali district, East Bengal, where some of the worst Hindu-Muslim rioting occurred in October.

His aim will be to restore amity between Hindus and Moslems and persuade people who left villages during the riots to re-occupy them.

Pandit Nehru, Vice-President of the Indian Government, will arrive here by air on Friday to have "important" discussions on political matters with Gandhi, it is learned.—Reuter.

## BERNBOROUGH NOT YET FIT TO TRAVEL

Melbourne, Dec. 24. Americans will be rushing things if they try to get Bernborough, Australia's famous thoroughbred, to the United States by ship by the end of January, as stated by Louis B. Mayer's attorney. This opinion was expressed to-day by the well-known veterinary surgeon, G. Heslop.

It was reported yesterday that Louis B. Mayer had bought the horse for the stud.

Heslop, who has attended the horse since its breakdown early in November, said that the horse was still very lame, and the slightest misstep might undo all the good that had been done.

"Mending the leg is going to be a long job, but if the new connections want to ship Bernborough so soon, that is their business and their risk," Heslop said.

Bernborough now able to hobble gently round the stand ring, and seems bright and well.—Reuter.

## JACK MANTLE TO BE FREED FROM GAOL

Thrapston, Eng., Dec. 24. Jack Mantle, of Thrapston, Northants, sentenced by court martial in November to twelve months imprisonment for desertion from the Navy after five years' exemplary service in the Army during the war, will be freed from Maidstone Prison early in the New Year. His sentence has been reviewed by the Admiralty.

Mantle, who is 32 years of age, deserted from the Navy before the war because he was "infatuated" with the service over a domestic affair. Later he joined the Army, and fought in many actions. After the war, he was anxious to clear his record, reported to the Navy, and was court-martialled.—Reuter.

## TO-DAY'S BROADCAST

ZBW on 445 kc from 12.30-1.15, 6.30-7.30, and 9.11 p.m., also 9.54 "Shows"—Musical Comedy; 7. London Relay; News; 7.15 Commentary from News; 7.30 Play in the Law; Tennis Contest for the Davis Cup; 7.45 Interlude; 7.50 Studio; 8.00 The Variety Hour; 8.15 Guest Programme, arranged by Lynn Fraser; 8.30 Frank Sinatra with Tony Martin; 8.45 Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra; 9.00 Studio; Piano Recital by Harry Orlin; 9.15 Interlude; 9.30 "Carmen"; Act I. Principal Artists, Chorus and Orchestra of La Scala, Milan; II, Close Down.

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